

Appl. No.: 10/727,414
Amdt. dated 11/18/2005
Reply to Office action of July 29, 2005

REMARKS

This Amendment is filed in response to the Office Action dated July 29, 2005. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough examination of the application as evidenced by the Office Action. In light of the Office Action, Applicants have amended Claims 1, 7, 12, and 18 to further clarify the claims. (These amendments were not made in light of the prior art.). Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention is patentable over the cited references. Applicants therefore respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the application in light of the following remarks.

I. Claims 1, 12, and 18 Are Definite

On page 2, the Office Action rejects Claims 1, 12, and 18 as indefinite for use of the phrase "independent of a processor." In light of this rejection, Applicants have amended these claims to clarify that the network device interface does not comprise a general processor to perform its operations. The claims as amended make it clear that the bus controller has a processor and the network device interface does not. In light of these amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1, 12, and 18 are definite.

II. Claims Are Patentable

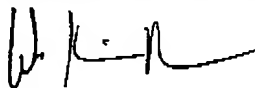
On page 3, the Office Action rejects Claims 1-15 and 17-20 as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,013,108 to Karolys. Applicants respectfully disagree with this rejection. Applicant first disagrees that the '108 Karolys discloses that the TBIM is a state machine. This is never positively stated in the reference. There is also nothing in the reference to suggest to one skilled in the art that the TBIM is a state machine. Secondly, the '108 Karolys patent nowhere teaches or suggests a bus controller that transmits signals serially over a common digital bus and a plurality of network device interfaces connected to the common digital bus in parallel to perform predefined functions in parallel to thereby support high speed communication over the common digital bus, wherein one of the network devices does not include a general processor, as is recited in the claims.

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In light of the above, Applicants respectfully submit independent Claims 1, 12, and 18, as well as the claims that depend therefrom, are patentable over the cited references. It is therefore respectfully requested that a Notice of Allowance be issued. The Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to resolve any remaining issues in order to expedite examination of the present application.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,

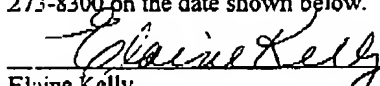


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CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the US Patent and Trademark Office at Fax No. (571) 273-8300 on the date shown below.


Elaine Kelly
Date

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